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Best Opening Lines: Another Magnetic Mardy Grothe Project

By John Busbee for The Culture Buzz

> *"An opening line should invite the reader to begin the story. It should say: Listen. Come in here. You want to know more about this."*
> – Stephen King, in a 2013 interview with Joe Fassler of *The Atlantic* magazine.

The above quote, a Grothe-selected gem, stands at the forefront of his new project's website (www.GreatOpeningLines.com). Dr. Mardy Grothe continues to thrive and rule in the world of words. Enticing combinations of hundreds of thousands of literary bricks are his building materials. His word selections construct new wonders which continue to beguile readers with his constant creativity. Grothe's experienced penchant for understanding the power of a well-delivered quote explores a kindred realm, as opening lines take center stage in his latest endeavor. This quote-meister again expands his literary realm, this time exploring the power of memorable introductory literature.

Opening lines are akin to initial meetings. That first impression is pivotal. It becomes a cornerstone of many relationships. The ones that last often have a recurring refrain that begins, "Remember when we first met?" In this case, it guides readers into a journey that often has them returning for another reading of "one of my favorite books."

The first words of a work of literature hold a similar, powerful first impression. Great opening lines cast an immediate spell over its reader, raising an explosion of questions begging for answers by reading further into that story whose captivating opening words demanded the reader's attention. The hook is set, and the reader willingly reeled into an immersive journey from that irresistible first impression.

The Great Opening Lines project is an energized new expression of Grothe's muse, and a contagious allure to his global cadre of fans who delight in his interactive endeavors. This latest exploration of literary creative mischief is a "A Celebration of Great Opening Lines in the World of Literature." He has devoted a new website to its exploration and enjoyment. This site beckons, encouraging inspirational engagement.

In classic Mardy Grothe fashion, the Great Opening Lines site is categorized for à la carte perusing. A terrific resource for writers as well as emerging writers, this is a brilliant case study of literary first impressions, helpfully defined in sections such as "Novels," "Short Stories," "Non-fiction," even "Food, Travel & Drink."

Take the time to explore this site, this remarkable literary resource. It is akin to visiting a wing in the Literature Hall of Fame, and Dr. Mardy Grothe is its caretaker, commissioner and chief advocate.

John Busbee is the Host/Producer of The Culture Buzz, a weekly, 2-hour radio show anchored in literature, arts and culture. www.TheCultureBuzz.com Broadcast/streaming at www.kfmg.org since 2007, The Culture Buzz hosts an archive podcast site for Cultural Adventurers, https://archive.org/details/@the_culture_buzz